

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (**Currently Amended**): A method of collecting a biological fluid comprising:
 - collecting a biological fluid by natural flow **from a patient**, without a pump;
 - measuring a natural **[[flow]]** fluid flow rate of the biological fluid; and
 - pumping anticoagulant and/or preservation solution from a reservoir to the collected biological fluid at a solution flow rate;wherein:
 - measuring **[[a]] the** natural **[[flow]]** fluid flow rate of the biological fluid comprises weighing the collected biological fluid **from the patient**, the pumped anticoagulant and/or preservation solution, and any anticoagulant and/or preservation solution remaining in the reservoir; and
 - the solution flow rate is adjusted while collecting the biological fluid **from the patient** based upon the measured **natural** fluid flow rate to preserve a selected ratio between the collected biological fluid and the anticoagulant and/or preservation solution.
2. (**Currently Amended**): The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - collecting the biological fluid in a collection bag; and
 - pumping the anticoagulant and/or preservation solution to the collection bag;wherein the solution flow rate is adjusted while collecting the biological fluid **from the patient** based upon the measured fluid flow rate to preserve a selected ratio in the collection bag between the collected biological fluid and the anticoagulant and/or preservation solution.
3. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the biological fluid comprises blood.

4. (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein measuring a fluid flow rate of the biological fluid further comprises calculating a variation in weight of the collected biological fluid, the pumped anticoagulant and/or preservation solution, and any anticoagulant and/or preservation solution remaining in the reservoir.

5. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein pumping comprises:
pumping using a peristaltic pump having a variable rotation speed; and
adjusting the variable rotation speed to obtain the appropriate solution flow rate.

6-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
collecting the biological fluid with a collection device in fluid communication
with the collection bag via a tube; and
detecting the presence of the biological fluid in the tube.

19. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 18, wherein detecting the presence of the biological fluid in the tube comprises optical or ultrasonic sensing.

20. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 2, further comprising collecting a second sample of the biological fluid by natural flow, without a pump.

21. (New) A method of collecting a blood, comprising:

collecting blood by natural flow from a patient, without a pump;
measuring a natural fluid flow rate of the blood collected from the patient, the natural flow being based on venous pressure and gravity; and
pumping anticoagulant and/or preservation solution from a reservoir to the collected blood at a solution flow rate;
wherein:

measuring the natural fluid flow rate of the blood comprises weighing the collected blood from the patient, the pumped anticoagulant and/or preservation solution, and any anticoagulant and/or preservation solution remaining in the reservoir; and

the solution flow rate is adjusted while collecting the blood based upon the measured fluid flow rate to preserve a selected ratio between the collected blood and the anticoagulant and/or preservation solution.

22. (New): The method of Claim 21, further comprising:

collecting the blood in a collection bag; and
pumping the anticoagulant and/or preservation solution to the collection bag;
wherein the solution flow rate is adjusted while collecting the blood from the patient based upon the measured fluid flow rate to preserve a selected ratio in the collection bag between the collected blood and the anticoagulant and/or preservation solution.

23. (New): The method of Claim 21, wherein measuring a fluid flow rate of the blood further comprises calculating a variation in weight of the collected blood, the pumped anticoagulant and/or preservation solution, and any anticoagulant and/or preservation solution remaining in the reservoir.

24. (New): The method of Claim 21, wherein pumping comprises:

pumping using a peristaltic pump having a variable rotation speed; and
adjusting the variable rotation speed to obtain the appropriate solution flow rate.